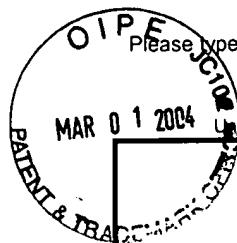


AF/3682



Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box

Corres. and Mail

→ **BOX AF**

PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paper Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

MAR 01 2004

TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

| | | | |
|--|---|------------------------|-------------------|
| TRANSMITTAL FORM | | Application Number | 10/008,557 |
| | | Filing Date | November 13, 2001 |
| | | First Named Inventor | Steven M. lehmann |
| | | Group Art Unit | 3682 |
| | | Examiner Name | Vinh Luong |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission | 7 | Attorney Docket Number | 353.015 |

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached | <input type="checkbox"/> Formal Drawings | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply | <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> After Final | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition | <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Notification of Missing Requirements Under 35 USC 371 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | | |
| DECLARATION | | |
| Remarks | | |

RECEIVED

MAR - 2 2004

GROUP 3600**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT**

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Firm or Individual name | Andrew S. McConnell, Registration No. 32,272 Boyle, Fredrickson, Newholm, Stein & Gratz, S.C. |
| Signature | |
| Date | 2/26/04 |

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this date: February 26, 2004

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Type or printed name | Dawn M. Oleszak |
| Signature | |
| Date | February 26, 2004 |

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.



Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.16
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 3682

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

STEVEN M. LEHMANN

Serial No.: 10/008,577

Filed: November 13, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3682

Examiner: Vinh Luong

TORQUE LIMITING MECHANISM
FOR A MECHANICAL ASSIST
STORAGE SYSTEM

) CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

)
)
I hereby certify that this correspondence is
being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service
as first class mail in an envelope addressed to
Mail Stop AF - No Fee, Commissioner For
Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria,
VA 22313-1450, this 26th day February, 2004.

)
)
Dawn M. Oleszak Feb. 26, 2004
Dawn M. Oleszak Date

RESPONSE

RECEIVED

MAR - 2 2004

GROUP 3600

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed December 30, 2003, please amend
the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.